

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Jasper Economic Development Commission  
January 16, 2013**

The Jasper Economic Development Commission met on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street. Notice was given in compliance with Indiana's Open Meeting Law.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Andrew Seger called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

President Andrew Seger	present
Vice President Jim Skillman	present
Secretary Mark Schmidt	present
Member Robert Whitten	present
Member Ray Snowden	present

Also present:

Renee Kabrick - Commission's Attorney

Kathy Pfister – Recording Secretary

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice President Skillman made a motion to approve the Commission's minutes from their November 14, 2012 meeting as presented. Secretary Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Due to no business at hand, there was no December meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Ray Snowden made a motion to keep the same slate of officers for 2013; Andrew Seger as President, Jim Skillman as Vice President and Mark Schmidt as Secretary. Robert Whitten seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**TAX ABATEMENT PROCESS**

President Seger encouraged the Commission to express their concerns whether or not any changes should be made in the upcoming year regarding the tax abatement process. He expressed that, in his opinion, the tax abatement process is a "unique and essential tool" for economic development in this area. President Seger said a couple of the Commission members will be meeting with some of the Council members after this morning's meeting to discuss specific issues and concerns. The members were in agreement that meeting with the Council would be beneficial; to make sure the Commission is 'going down the right path' with the tax abatement process.

Darla Blazey, Director of Community Development and Planning, mentioned that of the four applications submitted from last year, there was a total 242 jobs those companies said they would be bringing to Jasper in the next several years. Ms. Blazey also shared that her department created a PDF-fillable document in order to send the applications electronically and work with the applicants as close as possible in order to meet the deadlines. President Seger said he has had positive feedback on the application process.

Mayor Seitz shared with the Board that he recently toured Indiana Furniture's building and found it to be one of the most significant advancements in production that he has seen in this area in a long time. The company plans to invite the Council for a tour sometime in February. Mayor Seitz said he encourages the Board to also join in on the tour if the company is willing to extend the invitation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, a **motion** was made by Ray Snowden and seconded by Vice President Skillman to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

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Andrew M. Seger, President

ATTEST:

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Mark R. Schmidt, Secretary